GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4896
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2007
RAILWAY LAND
Paswan Shri Sukdeo

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have the details of the quantum of their land assessed to be under encroachment in the country, with particular reference to Bihar;

(b) whether the Railways has taken any steps to free this land from encroachment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) Indian Railways have a total land area of about 4.32 lakh hectares which is spread all over India including remote areas. Out of this about 1905 hectares of railway land is under encroachment as on 31.03.2007. State-wise data is not maintained by railways.

(b) & (c) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to free their land of encroachments as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and Railways Act, 1989. Apart from this railways also take preventive steps to check that more areas of railway land are not encroached upon. Regular monitoring is done at Zonal Headquarters and Railway Board level. However, while trying to evict encroachers, railways have to face possibility of law and order problems, litigations etc. For eviction of encroachers, Railways are dependent on co- operation of State Govt. authorities including Police, to avoid law and order problems. Despite these constraints, railways make every effort to protect railway land from encroachers.